

AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS FROM A GERMAN POINT OF VIEW.

An intelligent correspondent is contributing to the Illustrirte Zeitung of Leipzig, Germany, a series of letters on American subjects that are interesting in themselves and important as impartial criticisms of matters and things on this side of the Atlantic.

The correspondence writes from Carlisle, in this State, and in view of the intimate relations existing between this country and Germany, we propose to reproduce some of the letters, at least, for the benefit of our readers.

Since the suppression of the fearful rebellion in the Southern States, whereby our country incurred a debt of thousands of millions of dollars, and lost over a million of human lives, the United States have stepped out of the comparatively insignificant position which they before that time held among the nations of the world, and have attained an importance undeniably and increasingly felt through Europe.

The ratification of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States (whereby the colored race, so lately held in the bondage of slavery, are allowed equal rights with the white citizens) may be considered as settling the negro question, which has so long agitated the minds of men in this country.

Everywhere the colored people have celebrated this event with music, dancing, and general festivity, and already the political wire-pullers of both the great parties, Republicans and Democrats, are using their arts to gain the votes of the now important black brother.

Intelligence does not characterize the colored population of this land, as a class; they are, taking them as a whole, far behind the white foreign inhabitants, who only receive the rights of citizenship after five years residence.

ENGLISH TREATMENT OF LUNATICS.

The commissioners to inquire into the condition of the English lunatic asylums, has reported a shocking number of cases of lunatics killed by brutal keepers, whose favorite method of maltreatment seems to have been that of breaking the ribs and the breastbone by pressure of the knees.

Here are some of the cases reported, which were officially investigated by coroners:— Peckham House, Peckham.—In 1851 a male lunatic named Barnes had a struggle with his keeper and was thrown down on the floor by the latter, and his arm was broken.

Colney Hatch Asylum.—In 1858 a lunatic named Swift was kicked, maltreated, and dragged about by a keeper. He died two days afterward. His liver was ruptured and his ribs and the breastbone were broken.

Salford Workhouse.—In 1863, in the lunatic ward, a patient, J. M., had a struggle with two attendants, and died two days afterwards. Eight ribs were broken on the left side, six in more than one place.

Lancashire County Asylum.—In May, 1863, an imbecile male patient twenty-three years old, sickly and undersized, had a violent struggle with his attendant, who flung him on the floor. The poor fellow died in a few minutes, and a rib was found on examination to have been broken directly over the heart.

Lancaster County.—In 1869, December 12th, a patient named William Wilson, in the same place, died suddenly. The body was examined, and it was found that twelve ribs were broken, three of them in two places.

Wakefield Asylum.—In October, 1868, a patient died, according to the jury and medical evidence, from natural causes. Examination showed that two ribs were fractured on each side. At the inquest it was suggested that they had been broken after death, but as the commissioners observed, "the facts disclosed were such as to account for them in a far more probable way."

Carmarthen Asylum.—A patient died eight days after admission. Verdict, "Pneumonia, caused by fractured ribs." In fact, eight of his ribs were found to be broken.

Hanwell Asylum.—In 1862 a patient named Matthias Geoghegan, paralyzed and imbecile, died rather suddenly, the medical officer "thought from pleuro-pneumonia." Some bricklayers and laborers in his keeper, Jones, beat the deceased on the back with a fire-shovel; he then threw him on the floor, and walked backwards and forwards on his body, dragged him into the corridor, knocked his head several times on the stone floor, and kicked him in the belly.

Hanwell.—In March, 1868, a female lunatic, E. S., died of "inflammation of the lungs and pleura, consequent on fractured ribs and breastbone, but how those injuries were inflicted there was not sufficient evidence to show." Six ribs were found to be broken, but the nurses who undressed her every night either did not perceive any marks of ill-treatment or did not report them. No one was punished.

Hanwell.—In May the same year another woman, M. H., died of the same complaint. She was admitted May 15th, was examined, and was then free from all injuries; died on the 26th, seven ribs and breastbone broken. No one was punished.

Foreign Notes.

A trial, which it is said will be one of the most gigantic on record, was about to take place in Hungary. The accused are brigands, 300 in number, and it is expected that 200 of them will be condemned to death.

The Armonia announces from Italy that all the mills in the neighborhood of Bologna had closed on account of the tax on grinding. General Cosens had left Florence in all haste for that city, fearing some disturbance.

A queer story is told by one of the Greek papers. One of the military commanders having offered a reward for each brigand's head brought in, the supply soon became so extensive that suspicion was aroused. Inquiry was set on foot, and disclosed the fact that with an eye to the main chance, the so-called brigand hunters made raids into neighboring villages, plundered them, and then turned the heads of their victims to account.

In the case of the Queen against Hurt (the men in women's clothes case) the Judge had fixed the amount of bail at £100 for the defendant himself, and two sureties in like amount, with forty-eight hours' notice to the prosecution.

In the case of Fluke, it was arranged that four sureties in £500 each should be required, with forty-eight hours' notice. Le Nord says that Mr. Comming, a man whose name has been issued in connection with the charge of poisoning women, went to Brussels immediately after the arrest of Park and Boulton, and put up at one of the best hotels. As, however, he had no papers, and could not give evidence as to his means of existence, he was requested to leave the country.

The Nord adds that when he was called upon he had his hair in curl papers, and that portraits in which he and a friend were represented in women's clothes were found in his rooms.

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